(b) whether it is also a fact that the appointment of pilots is not only made by ignoring the company rules but they are also posted at higher level in management;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the foreign pilots get job in India on the basis of medical certificates issued from USA, Dubai and some other countries of Middle East and are not subjected to the strict medical fitness test as their Indian counterparts; and

(d) the reasons for not conducting medical fitness test of foreign pilots in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Foreign pilots are not given more importance in comparison to Indian Pilots. Licenses of foreign pilots are validated as per the extant Civil Aviation Requirements to overcome the shortage of type rated pilots in India.

(b) DGCA only validates the licenses of the foreign pilots. The terms of appointment are internal matters of the airlines in which Government do not intervene.

(c) Foreign pilots are required to have current Class-I Medical Proficiency checks and Instrument Rating from the Contracting State in which the license is issued.

(d) Foreign pilots are already required to have current Class-I Medical or a certificate from the medical examiner authorized from the Contracting State who had issued license before their licences are validated by DGCA.

Decline of foreign tourists in India

*40. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to recent terrorist attacks in several parts of the country, the flow of foreign tourists has come down considerably;

(b) if so, whether most of the countries have advised their citizens not to visit India in view of terrorist attacks;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by Government to create confidence amongst foreign tourists to visit India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been a decline in foreign tourist arrivals to the country in the months of December 2008 and January 2009, as detailed below:

Month	Foreign Tourist Arrivals	Percentage change as compared to corresponding month of previous year
December 2008	521990*	-12.5%
January 2009	487262*	-17.6%

* Pro visional Estimates

(b) and (c) Travel Advisories had been issued by some countries as a precautionary note to its citizens.

(d) The Ministry of Tourism has taken several steps to create confidence amongst foreign tourists visiting India. Security updates for foreign tourists have been put up on the website of the

Ministry. There have been regular interactions with the international travel industry and media through the Indian Missions and Indiatourism offices overseas. Familiarisation tours to India for international travel trade and media representatives have been arranged to keep them updated on the safety /security conditions in different parts of the country.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTION

Anti-sea erosion works in Maharashtra

107. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra for National Coastal Protection Project seeking Central assistance to construct anti-sea-erosion bunds along the coastline to protect it from erosion;

(b) if so, when the proposal was received and the present status thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to expedite the approval of the project and release of grants thereunder the anti-sea-erosion works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Water being a State subject, works for anti-erosion measures are taken up by the respective State Governments from their own resources and according to their own priorities. However, realizing the severity of sea-erosion problems in certain critical reaches of the coast line and on the recommendation of National Coastal Advisory Committee, a proposal for National Coastal Protection Project (NCPP) was conceived with a view to seek external funding. Accordingly, an approach paper was prepared on the basis of details received from various maritime States and sent to Planning Commission in July 2004 in this regard. This, *inter-alia*, included the proposal from Govt. of Maharashtra for Rs. 193.80 Crores.

In March 2005, the Planning Commission forwarded the proposal to Department of Economic Affairs for posing it to an appropriate Agency for external funding. After due consideration, the Department of Economic Affairs forwarded the same to the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The Review Mission (1-12th December, 2006) of the ADB in their Aide Memoire recommended to take up the work in the States of Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra.

The Fact Finding Mission of ADB (18th April - 7th May, 2007) recommended to extend Project Preparatory Technical Assistance (PPTA) and indicated that the Technical Assistance (TA) would support the National Coastal Protection Project (NCPP) by assisting the States of Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra in preparing technically, economically, environmentally and socially viable investment proposals to address Coastal Erosion and introduce procedure for Sustainable Coastal Protection and shore line management.

An agreement has already been signed between ADB and the Department of Economic Affairs in respect of PPTA. The consultant engaged by the ADB has undertaken the task for preparation of the project to cover the States of Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra. A High Level Steering Committee